



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Sacramento Fish & Wildlife Office
Species Account
CLOVER LUPINE
Lupinus tidestromii



CLASSIFICATION: Endangered
Federal Register Notice 57:27848; June 22, 1992
http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/federal_register/fr2073.pdf
(1.9 MB)

STATE LISTING STATUS AND CNPS CODE:

This species was listed as endangered by the California Department of Fish and Game in January 1987 under the name Tidestrom's lupine. The California Native Plant Society has placed it on List 1B (rare or endangered throughout its range), also as Tidestrom's lupine.

CRITICAL HABITAT: None designated

RECOVERY PLAN: Recovery Plan for Coastal Plants of the Northern San Francisco Peninsula
http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/031006.pdf

5-YEAR REVIEW: Initiated March 5, 2008



Clover Lupine
© 2001 Doreen L. Smith



Clover Lupine
© 2005 George W. Hartwell

DESCRIPTION:

Clover lupine, which is also known as Tidestrom's lupine, is a member of the pea family (Fabaceae). It is a creeping perennial herb, 1 to 3 decimeters (4-12 inches) tall. It grows only on sand dunes of the central California coast.

The narrow leaves have 3 to 5 leaflets, each 5 to 20 millimeter (0.2 to 0.8 inch) long, and arranged in a fan shape. The stems and leaves have short hairs. The inflorescence stems are 4-8 centimeters (1.6 to 3.1 inches) long. Whorls of flowers are blue to lavender.

The fruits are pods containing 5 to 8 seeds with blackish spots. Because the large seeds have a hard seed coat, and because related lupine species are known to have long-lived dormant seed banks (e.g. *L. arboreus*), it is likely that clover lupine also has a persistent seed bank, and may retain viable populations at some sites where it is not recorded. Seeds are probably dispersed by explosive dehiscence (bursting of the seed pods) and rolling, or rarely by tidal erosion and deposition.

The prostrate habit, number of leaflets (mostly 3), and small leaflet size, 1.3 to 2 centimeters (0.5—0.8 inch) long, and dense hairs on the foliage distinguish *L. tidesstronii* from other lupines occurring in the area. See Jepson Manual, below, for a detailed description of this and similar species.

DISTRIBUTION:

Clover lupine occurs from sea level to 25 feet on partially stabilized coastal dunes from the Monterey Peninsula in Monterey County northward to the Pt. Reyes Peninsula in Marin County. There is an isolated colony on the south bank of the Russian River near its mouth in Sonoma County. The southernmost population is located at Pebble Beach in Monterey County. Several of the occurrences on the Monterey Peninsula are on remnant dunes in the yards of private residences. Preliminary field studies suggest that the species may be widespread locally within Pt. Reyes dune system.

U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Quads: Tomales (485B) 3812228, Drakes Bay (485C) 3812218, Duncans Mills (503A) 3812341, Arched Rock (503B) 3812342, Bodega Head (503D) 3812331

THREATS:

Threats include loss of habitat due to development, trampling by hikers and equestrians and livestock grazing. Many sites are also threatened by invasion of nonnative species, such as iceplant and European beachgrass. Some major populations at Point Reyes National Seashore, Asilomar State Park and Pebble Beach are protected by land use restrictions.

REFERENCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

General references about California plants

www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/plant_spp_accts/plant_references.htm

The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California. This is the standard reference about California plants. The Manual is available in an [online version](#). See also the [Jepson Online Interchange](#) for updates.

For larger images and permission information see CalPhotos <http://calphotos.berkeley.edu/>.

Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605
Sacramento, California 95825
Phone (916) 414-6600
FAX (916) 414-6713

Last updated March 31, 2010